

## Total Maximum Daily Load

### What is Total Maximum Daily Load?

- Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, is a plan required by the federal Clean Water Act for determining the amount of pollutants that can enter Indiana's waterways.
- IDEM is responsible for developing TMDLs to meet state water quality standards for impaired waterbodies in Indiana.

### What is an impaired waterbody?

- Any waterbody – stream, river, lake, creek – that does not meet the state's criteria for designated uses is considered an impaired waterbody. These uses could include recreation, the support of plant and animal life or fish consumption.
- Waterbodies become impaired when pollutants are repeatedly introduced to the water over a long period of time. These pollutants can include industrial discharges, sewage, municipal waste, soil and polluted storm water run-off from pavement.
- Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires each state to identify and rank waters that do not meet state water quality standards.

### How does it work?

- A TMDL plan identifies the allowable amounts of point and non-point source pollution that can be released into an impaired waterway while still maintaining water quality standards.
  - Point source pollution comes from one source, such as a straight pipe leading into a river.
  - Non-point source pollution comes from widespread sources, such as oil and debris from roads washing into a river during a rainstorm.
- This plan, if followed, will significantly reduce the amount of pollutants entering Hoosier waterways.

### The TMDL process

#### **Phase I – planning and data collecting**

- Potential sources of pollution are identified.
- Additional testing is conducted to determine the extent and type of pollution present in the waterway.
- A water quality model, specific to the waterbody, is developed.
- A list of stakeholders – citizen groups, permit holders, city officials – is compiled.
- Public outreach meetings are held to present and gather information.

#### **Phase II – TMDL development**

- Additional sampling is conducted if needed.
- Information gathered from stakeholders, sampling data and other resources is compiled to develop a scenario to ensure attainment of water quality standards.
- The TMDL project manager continues to meet with stakeholder groups to gain local perspective.
- The TMDL plan is written and subject to public review and comment.
- The finalized plan is sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

#### **Phase III – Implementation**

- An implementation plan is developed to ensure the plan will meet water quality standards.
- IDEM works with stakeholders during all phases of implementation, including scheduling, execution and follow-up.

### Where can I get more information?

Contact the Office of Water Quality, Assessment Branch, at (317) 308-3214. Or visit IDEM's Web site at [www.IN.gov/idem/water/assessbr/tmdl\\_program.htm](http://www.IN.gov/idem/water/assessbr/tmdl_program.htm)

